

REMARKS

Please reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction. The inventions claimed appear to have a common component(s), and the search is not unduly burdensome. Indeed, another Examiner conducted a prior art search and Applicants disclosed the fruits thereof in this U.S. application to discharge duty of candor obligations. The disclosed search results also reduces the effort required to review this application.

Applicants also draw attention to the MPEP 803 objective of having all claims in one application, whenever possible.

Chewing gum would be a core for search purposes, but such provisional election is with traverse.

Amended claim 17 reflects a self-evident editorial correction that does not narrow claim scope.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Amendments to the existing claim:

17. (Amended) A process for producing the sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 1, said process comprising:

providing a moving mass comprised of edible, chewable and/or pharmaceutical cores, said mass being disposed in a rotating pan, and

preparing at least one layer of said hard coating by adding a liquid coating syrup to said moving mass, said syrup comprising a mixture of sorbitol and erythritol in which erythritol is present in an unit amount of 1-50% w/w based on the dry substance of the mixture.